

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Military and Uranium Shipments, Port of Varna

PLACE 25X1A

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1. During the period from the middle of March until late October 1950, there was a noticeable increase in Soviet shipments to the port of Varna, especially after the war began in Korea. Two or three ships arrived from Soviet ports each week all carrying war material.

2. From photographs of Soviet material, informant identified the following types of equipment as having arrived in Varna during the summer and fall months of 1950:

76 mm Soviet mountain gun (M1938)

76 mm Soviet ZIS-3 (M1942)

152 mm Soviet howitzer (M1938)

76 mm Soviet gun (M1943)

S-65, GAZ-AAA, ZIS-5 lorries and a new model ZIS with bull-dozer nose.

Heavy tanks, probably Joseph Stalin type, but with shorter gun.

Shells and ammunition.

3. The above materiel was transported aboard the following ships:

SS KOCHAGIN

SS KOREIS

SS MEKHANIK GERASIMOV

SS TOLBUKHIN

4. Most heavy equipment, such as tanks, field guns and heavy trucks was brought in aboard the SS MEKHANIK GERASIMOV and the SS TOLBUKHIN. All of the war materiel brought into Bulgaria seemed to be unloaded at night and taken out of the rail yards before morning. It was forbidden to be in the vicinity of the dock area when Soviet military equipment was being unloaded. All Soviet ships returned to their home ports empty after discharging military cargo.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 October 1978 from the Director of the Intelligence to the Archivist, the United States.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. The following Bulgarian ships make calls very often at Soviet ports:

SS BULGARIA
SS RODINA
SS SMIRNENSKI
SS CORIANIN
SS RILA
SS DOBRUDZHA

6. The above ships usually carried corn, beans, onions, marmalade, rose oil, meat or potatoes to the USSR and returned with agricultural machinery, automobiles, finished steel and iron products.

7. In addition to the farm products, Bulgaria has been shipping uranium ore to the USSR. The ore is shipped in Soviet ships only. In May, June and July of 1947 uranium ore was being loaded aboard a Russian ship in 20 kilo paper sacks.

- 25X1A 8. [REDACTED] the uranium mines are in the vicinity of Sofia and somewhere in the south of Bulgaria, since most uranium ore is shipped out of the port of Burgas.

- 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: This report is an amplification of the material contained in [REDACTED]

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